DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 404 633 CS 012 733

TITLE	150 Years of Literacy in Iowa.
INSTITUTION	Cedar Rapids Community School District, Iowa.
SPONS AGENCY	Iowa State Dept. of Education, Des Moines.
PUB DATE	96
NOTE	61p.
PUB TYPE	Reference Materials - Bibliographies (131) -- Historical Materials (060)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC03 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Adult Literacy; Annotated Bibliographies; Books; *Childrens Literature; *Educational History; Elementary Education; Interviews; *Literacy; Reading Attitudes; Reading Interests
IDENTIFIERS	*Iowa

ABSTRACT

Developed by students at Harrison Elementary, Cedar Rapids, Iowa for a web site celebrating Iowa's sesquicentennial, this booklet presents a variety of material about literacy in Iowa. The first section of the booklet provides information on professional and state organizations dealing with literacy and presents the school's home page. The next section spotlights literacy, presenting: 15 ways to be a iterate person; a survey and data about adults' literacy; interviews with Iowans about what it means to be literate; and adults learning to read and write. The next section of the booklet discuses authors with an Iowa connection, books and historical places in Iowa, a profile of the students who developed the website, and links to other sites of interest. The next section presents historical and background information on schooling in Iowa and the American College Testing organization. The last section of the booklet discusses books--what books the mayor of Cedar Rapids and other citizens of Iowa linked as children, bookstores in Iowa, and books that have an Iowa connection. A 26-item annotated bibliography of children's books, and a 14-item annotated bibliography of children's picture books to share with someone concludes the booklet. (RS)

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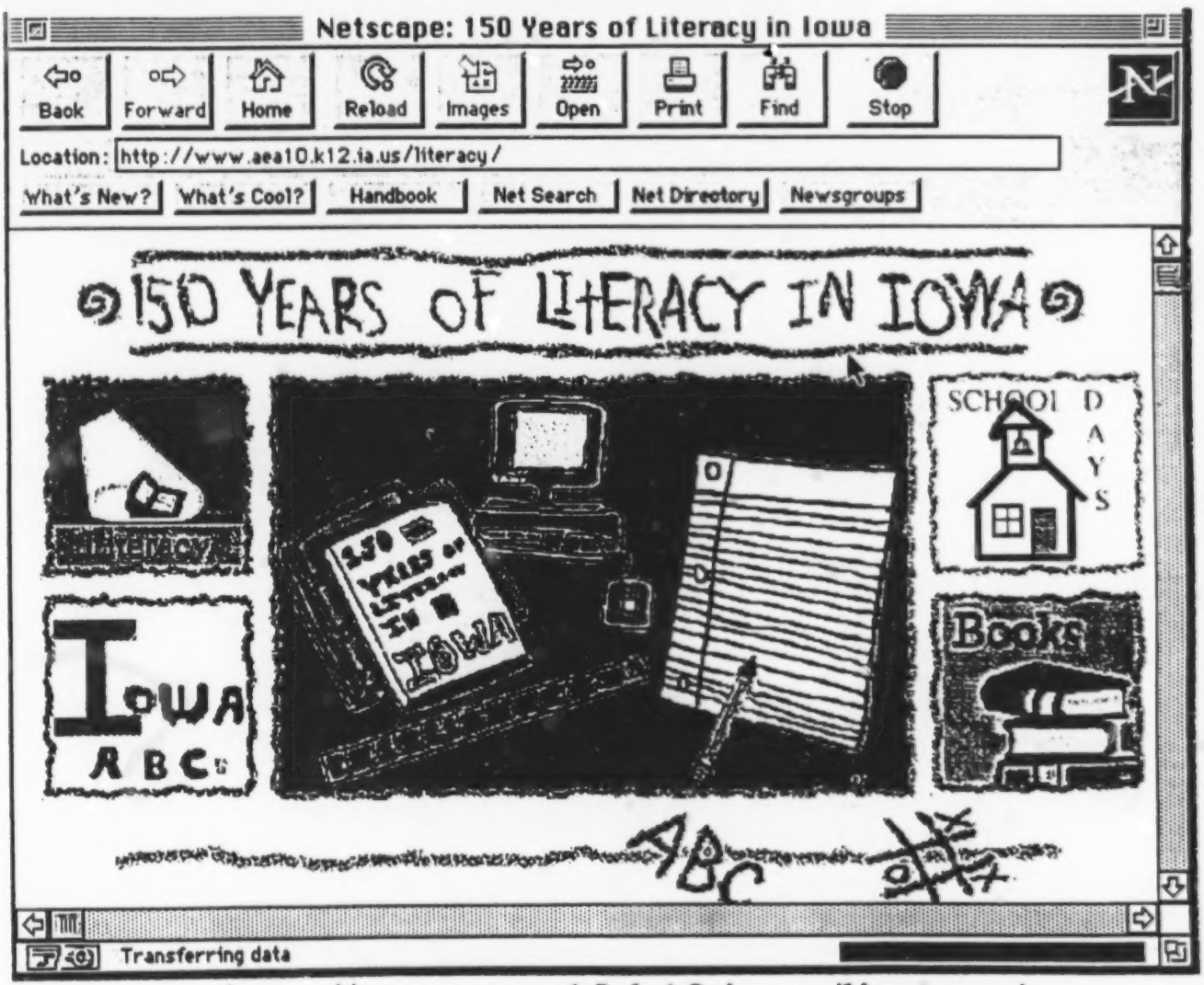
150 Years of Literacy in Iowa



http://www.aea10.k12.ia.us/literacy/

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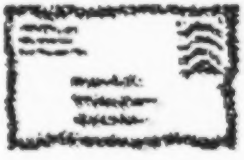
Children as Web Makers -A Profile

"150 Years of Literacy in Iowa" began as a project to focus on Iowa's Sesquicentennial and the level of literacy in Iowa. The project was undertaken by fourth and fifth grade classes at Harrison Elementary School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Three classrooms were studying Iowa and its place in the history of the United States. They were able to find out a lot of information for the website. Those classes and their teachers: Helen Kane, Jamie Preston, and Eileen Crowley worked very hard for a number of weeks to interview people, write letters, and compile information to tell a story about Iowa and its attitude towards literacy and the level of literacy through the years. Three other classes and their teachers: Kim Russ, Lisa Greif, and Candi Lynch conducted research and collated opinions to create three more web pages. Jim Jacobmeyer, a gifted and talented resource specialist for the district, helped us a lot on this website by organizing a design group which helped create graphics and search for information.

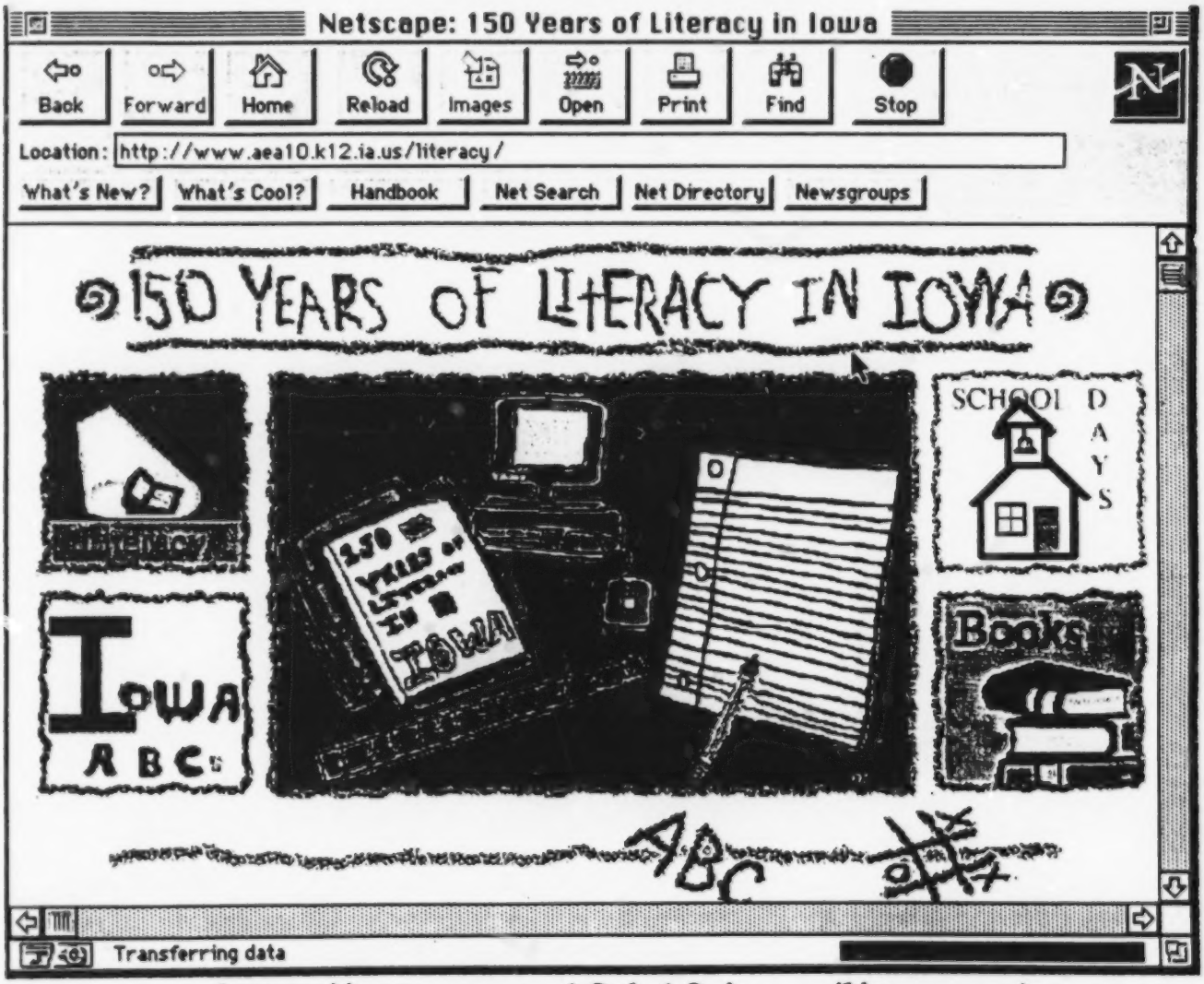
In addition to searching for information in our own school's library media center, students used reference books, resources at the Cedar Rapids Public Library, vertical files, CD-ROM reference sources, the Internet, phone interviews, in-person interviews, letters, surveys, a modem access to the Library of Congress's card catalog, and other miscellaneous sources. They found that their great-great-great-great grandparents might have ridden a horse to a one-room school house to learn to read and write using McGuffy's readers and slate writing tablets. Over 100 years later they were attending a 19 classroom neighborhood school with a library media center and classrooms filled with books and reading material. And while they wrote with pencil and paper they were also able to write their summaries of research projects on the computer and post the information for the world to see.



If you have some comments about these pages or any information you think we should add please e-mail the students who created these pages.

E-mail to -- Sharron McElmeel, library media specialist

150 Years of Literacy in Iowa



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These documents were developed by students at Harrison Elementary during the 1995-96 school year and first published on a web site at http://www.aea10.k12.ia.us/literacy/. Updated pages may be accessed at that web site address. For further information about the project and the students who first developed these pages please see the sponsor pages (pages 2-5) and the page titled "Children as Web makers - a Profile" (page 28). Pages 1-56 are reproduced from the web site "150 Years of Literacy in Iowa."

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For further information contact:

HARRISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CEDAR RAPIDS COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
1310 11TH STREET NW
CEDAR RAPIDS IA 52405

or by e-mail at SHarrison@mail.cedar-rapids.k12.ia.us

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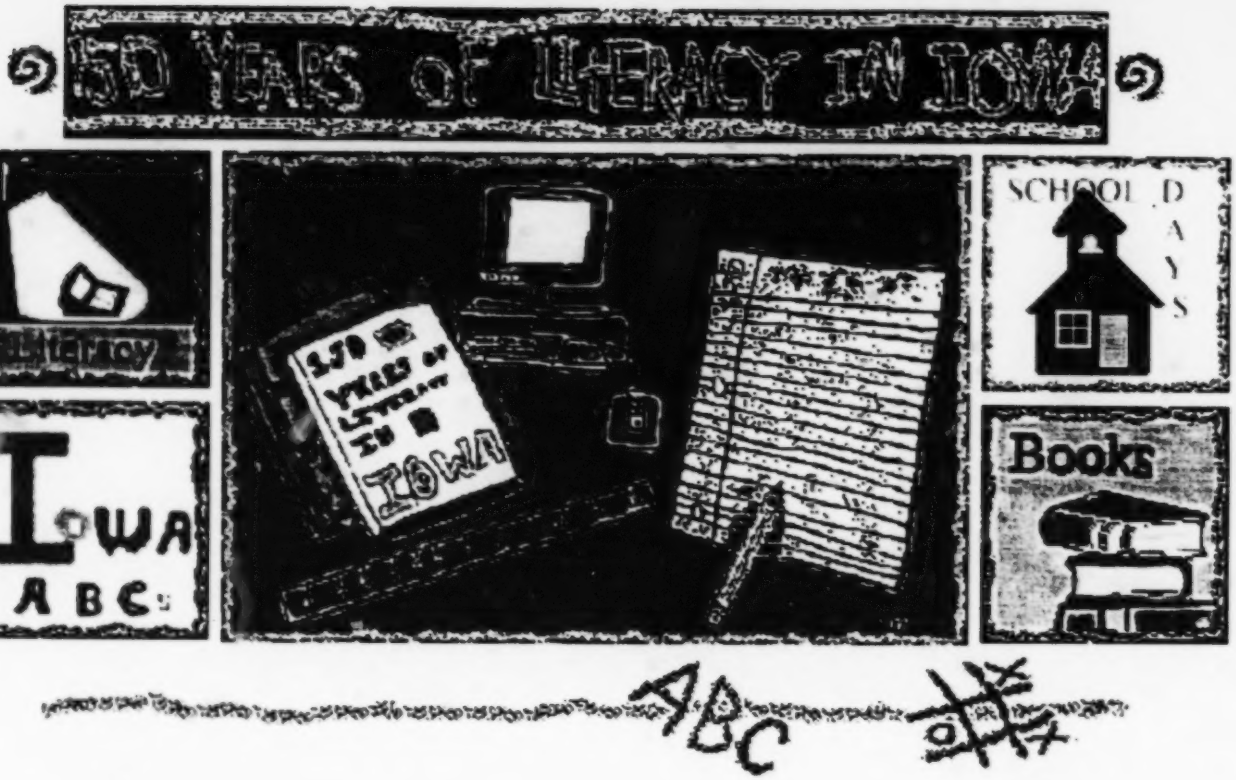

Officially endorsed by the Iowa Sesquicentennial Commission:

Iowa Department of Education

Iowa Literacy Council

Iowa Literacy Resource Center

Iowa Reading Association

Harrison Elementary School - Cedar Rapids Community School District

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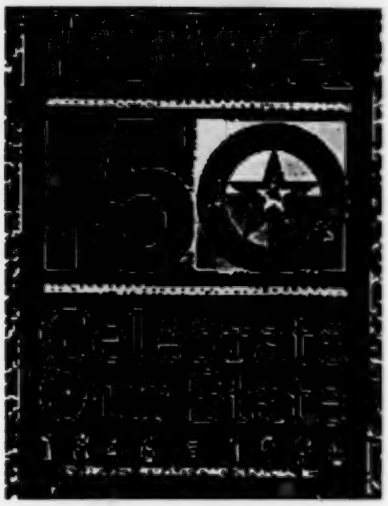
Iowa Department of Education
Iowa Literacy Council

In April of 1985, Governor Terry Branstad established the Iowa Literacy Council. Its operations are assigned to the Iowa Department of Education. The council is composed of 15 members representing people from various business, education, and state organizations in addition to students and members from the general community. Various social, economic, educational and ethnic backgrounds are represented.

The council was established with the goal of making a concentrated effort to coordinate literacy programs statewide, to minimize the duplication of such services, and to provide assistance to those individuals in need of basic skills. The specific goals and objectives of the council are to increase awareness of the Iowa Adult Literacy Congress, broaden the perception of the meaning of literacy, to promote an understanding of learning disabilities in adults, and to develop an ongoing public relations plan. In addition the council would sponsor new reader workshops and build coalitions with the Iowa Resource Center, literacy providers, and promoter. The primary literacy providers of the literacy program are the fifteen (15) community colleges in the state. Their services are free to literacy students and those who are working on their basic skills.

For further information about the Iowa Literacy Council contact:

Iowa Literacy Council
Iowa Department of Education
Grimes State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319-0146
phone: (515) 281-3640



Iowa Literacy Resource Center

The Iowa Literacy Resource Center is operated under grant authorization from the Iowa Department of Education. The center is located at the Waterloo Public Library and is administered by the Northeast Iowa Regional Library System, in conjunction with the Hawkeye Community College, the Northeast Iowa Community College at Calmar and Peosta, and the Waterloo Public Library.

The services of the Iowa Literacy Resource Center include providing a resource lending library, a toll-free literacy support telephone line providing referral to appropriate resources and persons involved in community literacy programs, workshop presentations, and production of a newsletter providing current state literacy information and national literacy activity information. The newsletter is issued bimonthly from October through May. Distribution is free of charge and open to anyone wishing to be added to the mailing list.

All materials within the Iowa Literacy Resource Center are included on statewide library holdings bibliography,"Iowa Locator" and the Waterloo Public Library on-line catalog. Items may be obtained in-person during normal operating hours of the Waterloo Public Library. Requests from anywhere in Iowa will be honored by mail, fax or toll-free telephone contact.

For further information or to request materials from the Iowa Literacy Resource Center contact:

Iowa Literacy Resource Center
415 Commercial Street
Waterloo, IA 50701
phone: 1-800-772-2023 or 319-233-1200 FAX 319-233-1964

Iowa Reading Association

The mission of the Iowa Reading Association, an interactive group of individuals interested in reading, is to promote literacy through leadership, educational programming, and legislative endeavors. The Iowa Reading Association is an affiliate of the International Reading Association. Local councils are active throughout the state of Iowa. The Iowa Reading Association's annual conference is held in the spring of each year in Des Moines, Iowa. Publications of the organization include Iowa Reading, a membership newspaper and the Iowa Reading Journal, a professional journal distributed to members of the association and to subscribers.

For More Information contact:
Iowa Reading Association
512 Lynn Avenue
Ames, IA 50014

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Welcome to the . . .

HARRISON HURRICANES

Web Site

ABC

Questions or comments regarding these pages?
Contact us at SHarrison@mail.cedar-rapids.k12.ia.us.

Harrison Elementary
Cedar Rapids Community Schools
1310 11th St NW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405-1898

Last Updated: Thursday, January 18, 1996
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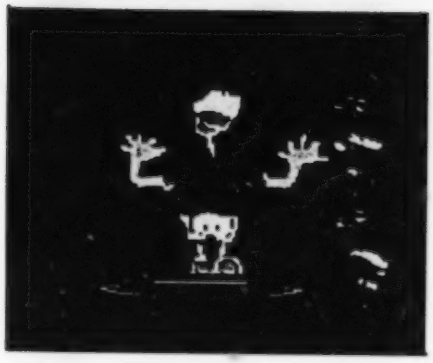
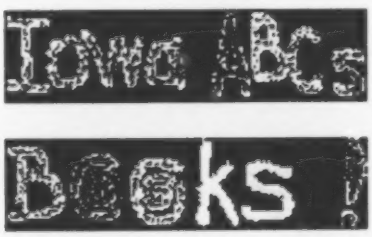
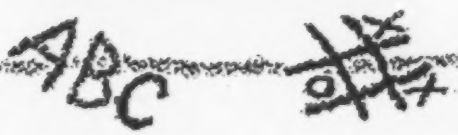


Spotlight on Literacy

- 15 Ways to be a Literate Person
- School Days In Iowa -- A Profile of Literacy
- What Does It Mean to Be Literate?
- Adults Learning to Read and Write





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15 Ways to be a Literate Person

1. Visit the public library and get a good book to read. Libraries were so important to the people of Iowa that they had a territorial library eight years before becoming a state. We found out this fact and other information about today's State Library of Iowa by visiting their website. You may also want to visit websites of the public libraries in Des Moines, Marshalltown, and Iowa City.

2. Write a letter to a relative or friend. Writing letters is a good way to keep in touch with a friend. If you don't know the zip code you can get it by calling your local post office or by visiting the United States Postal Service site on the Internet.

3. Read a book to a child. You may wish to try one of our favorites: *The Cat in the Hat* by Dr. Seuss (Ashley's favorite); *Chelsey and the Green-Haired Kid* by Carol Gorman (Todd's); *Face Off* by Matt Christopher (Matt's); and *Washing the Willow Tree Loon* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin (Mrs. McElmeel's).

4. Write about your growing-up in Iowa. *Growing Up in Iowa: Reminiscences of 14 Iowa Authors* edited by Clarence A. Andrews, tells the stories of 14 authors who grew up in Iowa.

5. Read and write about the history of your town. We found these books about four large cities in Iowa. Perhaps you can find some books about your city or town.

About Cedar Rapids

Cedar Rapids, Tall Corn and High Technology: A Pictorial History
by Ernie Dankek (Windsor Publications, 1980)

Cedar Rapids: The Magnificent Century
by Harold F. Ewoldt (Windsor Publications, 1988)

Tales of the Town: Little-Known Anecdotes of Life in Cedar Rapids

by Ralph Clements (Stamats, 1967)

About Davenport

The River and the Prairie: A History of the Quad-Cities, 1812-1960
by William Roba (Hesperian Press, 1986)

Davenport, a pictorial history 1836-1986
by Marlys A. Svendsen (G. Bradley Pub., 1985)

About Des Moines

The Iowa Capitol: A Harvest of Design
by Linda Nelson Johnson (Plain Talk Pub. Co., 1989)

Looking in Windows: Surprising Stories of Old Des Moines
by George Mills (Iowa State University Press, 1991)

About Waterloo

Cities on the Cedar: A Portrait of Cedar Falls, Waterloo and Black Hawk County
by Glenda Riley (Mid-Prairie Books, 1988).

6. Make a picture book about yourself and your children. Send it to someone special.

7. Buy a book to give as a gift. See our lists of great books to read.

8. Buy a book for yourself.

9. Read *I Is for Iowa* by Mary Ann Gensicke

10. Read a book by an Iowa Author or Illustrator.

11. Subscribe to a magazine and read it. One magazine that tells a lot about Iowa and Iowans is the Iowa Commerce Magazine.

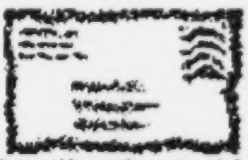
12. Find out if any authors/illustrators live in your hometown. Invite them to your community group to talk about writing books.

13. Visit a literary place in Iowa. Two places you may wish to visit are the Laura Ingalls Wilder site in Burr Oak, Iowa and the Honey Creek Bridge which is the location of stories told about Kate Shelley, an Iowa hero who saved lives in a raging storm.

14. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper.

15. Take a child to the library.

These suggestions were made by members of Miss Kane's fourth and fifth grade students. If you have suggestions for other "literate" activities e-mail us and tell us your idea.



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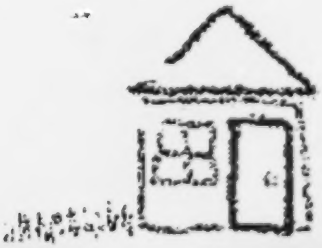
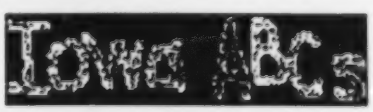
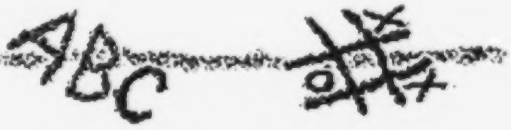




School Days In Iowa --A Profile of Literacy

The following survey was developed and used to interview 61 Iowans who represented grandparents, aunts and uncles, parents, friends, parents' co-workers, siblings, neighbors, and teachers. The age of those interviewed ranged from 80 years of age to 21. All attended school in Iowa.



1. Did you go to school in the city or country?

City	Small town	Country
39	2	19

2. What is the highest grade that you completed?

Of 61 surveys the following are the results compiled from those responding:

8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	GED	13th	14th	15th	16th	Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science degree	Registere Nurse deg
2	4	3	8	23	1	8	6	2	-	4	1

3. At what age did you start school?

Age two	Age four	Age five	Age six	Age nine
1	10	40	9	1

4. At what age did you stop going to school? 11

According to the responses most were in school yet at age 18, and some were still attending school at age 30.

Number of Responses	Age	Number of Responses	Age
1	15	4	21
6	16	4	22
7	17	2	23
17	18	1	24
9	19	1	26
2	20	1	30

5. How many grades were in one classroom?

Those surveyed indicated that their schools had everything from one to eight grades were in each classroom.

6. Did you attend preschool?

14 answered yes.

7. Did you attend kindergarten?

55 answered yes.

8. How did you get to school?

Rode a horse	Walked	Rode in cars	Rode buses
1	35	9	28

12 9. How far away was your elementary school?

What Does It Mean to be Literate?

To find out what it means to be literate, students in Miss Preston's fourth/fifth grade class at Harrison Elementary School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa interviewed a favorite aunt, a hospital volunteer, a cook, some of their teachers, two United States Senators, and some visiting teachers.

My Aunt Penni was born in Iowa. She grew up with my mom. She is now married and has two children, almost teenagers, named David and Austin.

Q. What do you think it means to be literate?

A. "The opportunity for unlimited knowledge."

-- *Information collected by Matt*

Sharron McElmeel was named Iowa Reading Teacher of the Year, in 1987. Her book reviews have appeared in national and local periodicals and newspapers. She has lived in Iowa all of her life.

Q. What do you think it means to be literate?

A. "To be literate means to be able to read and write well enough to do whatever a person wants to do in today's world. A person must be able to read and write well enough to have the job she/he wants to have, do the things she/he wants to do, and have the information the person needs to enjoy life."

-- *Information collected by Erin*

The distance from home to school was less than a block for some students and as much as 25 miles. The average distance students traveled was three and one-half miles.

10. In what grade did you learn to read?

Before first grade	In first grade	In second grade	In third grade
6	34	12	1

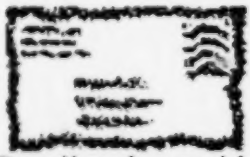
11. In what grade did you learn to write?

Before first grade	In first grade	In second grade	In third grade	In fourth grade
13	28	9	5	1

12. What was the average number of students in your class?

23 was the average number of students per class.

--Survey developed and compiled by Kiria, Stephanie, James, Amanda A., Josie, Dayna, Amanda H., and Jovanna from Mrs. Greif's class.



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Jeannette Moody-Port is a volunteer at St. Luke's hospital in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She attends college and sometimes helps to take care of Nick when his mom is at work. Jeannette also writes. Two of Jeannette's poems will be published by a publisher in Maryland.

Q. What does it mean to be literate?

A. "Literacy means knowing how to read. Literacy comes from the word literature which has to do with books."

-- Information collected by Nick

Jan Pope is the head cook at Harrison Elementary School. She is in charge of several other cafeteria workers. They make wonderful food. One of Mrs. Pope's children is going to be a teacher.

Q. What does it mean to be literate?

A. "To be literate you would be able to read a book or newspaper. You would be able to write letters or notes."

-- Information collected by Ashley and Matt

Joann Blum is a fourth grade teacher at Lewis Central in Council Bluffs, Iowa. She loves teaching and her favorite subjects are math and social studies.

Q. What does it mean to be literate?

A. "To be literate means to be able to read, learn, and respond to each other verbally and in written words."

-- Information collected by Daniel

Linda Cooper is a kindergarten teacher with the Lewis Central Community Schools. She says, "I enjoyed my visit to Harrison Elementary School especially my time with Daniel in Miss Preston's room."

Q. What does it mean to be literate?

A. "To me, to be literate means that I can read and communicate well enough to continue to be a life-long learner."

-- Information collected by Daniel

Grace Zimmerman started teaching in country schools where she taught all of the grades. She taught from the year 1947 and taught for 31 years. Most of her teaching years were at Midland Schools in Wyoming, Iowa. She is Rachel's grandmother.

Q. What does it mean to be literate?

A. "To be literate means to be able to interpret the printed word, not merely reading the word, but to understand the author's intent and to be able to judge the material as to whether or not it is biased information. For example, in reading the newspaper, to be able to discern the difference in factual information and when someone is editorializing or creating sensationalism. To be literate also means being able to write to express your own feelings in such a way that others understand what you are trying to say."

-- Information collected by Rachel

Charles E. Grassley became a member of the U.S. House of Representatives in 1974. He became part of the Senate in 1980. He has represented Iowa in congress over twenty years.

Q. What does it mean to be literate?

A. "According to Webster's *New World Dictionary*, literacy is defined as the ability to read and write. We begin developing these skills when we are very young and they are continuously being built upon throughout our lifetime."

-- *Information collected by Erin*

Tom Harkin has been a senator representing Iowans for a long time. He is a Democrat. He is on the agriculture, appropriations, small business, and labor and human resources committee in the United States Senate.

Q. What does it mean to be literate?

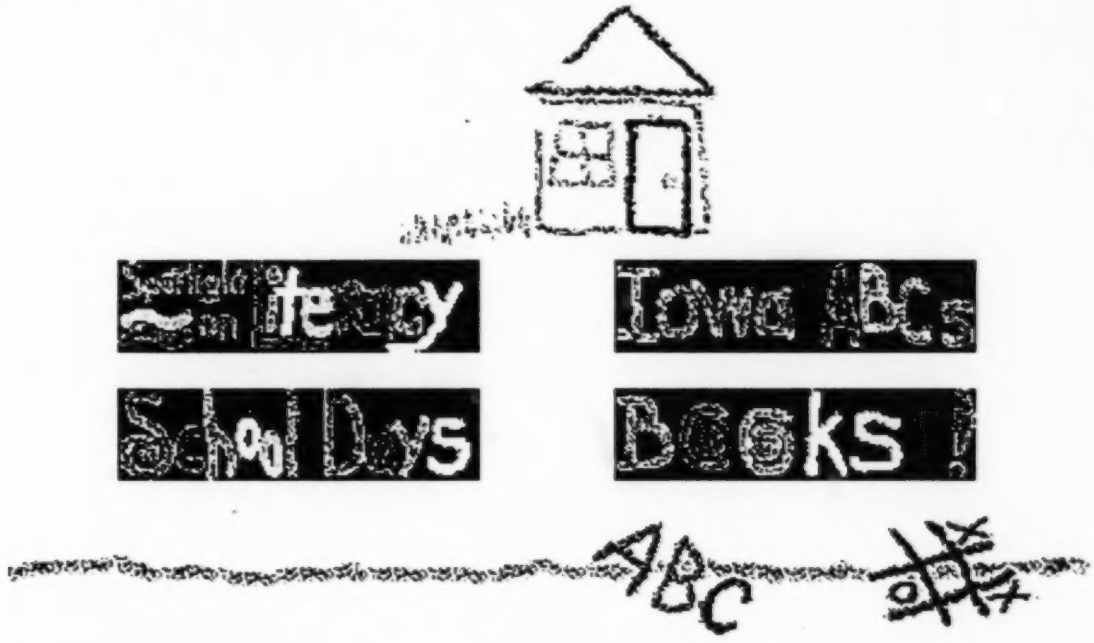
A. "The dictionary tells us that being literate is having the ability to read and write. But it also means more than just that. Being literate means being informed and educated in our changing world. These days, it means not just being able to read a book, but also knowing how to use a computer. Literacy is a key to success in life. Being literate unlocks the doors to new worlds and new opportunities."

Senator Harkin's e-mail address is:
Tom_Harkin@Harkin.Senate.Gov.

-- *Information collected by Erin*

We'd like to know what you think it means to be literate. Please send us an e-mail message and tell us:

sharrison@mail.cedar-rapids.k12.ia.us



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Adults Learning to Read and Write

Across Iowa there are several sites that help adults who can not read and write to become literate. Many of the sites are connected with a community college. Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa has nine sites where tutors help adults learn to read and write. The Adult literacy program is for people over 18 years of age. It is a place where they can go to improve their reading, writing, math, life skills, and prepare for continued learning.

We interviewed three people who have, as adults, learned to read and write.

Linda Bruce

We found out that when Mrs. Bruce was a child, she found it frustrating to learn to read because she had trouble with her vowels and spelling. During her childhood other children made fun of her. She quit school in the eighth grade.

One of the jobs Mrs Bruce had was at a hospital as a janitor. When they found out she could not read she was fired. She has cleaned houses for 24 years but she has always wanted to be a secretary. She said it hurts not being able to read and write because she couldn't help her children with homework.

Mrs. Bruce has gotten help learning to read and write at the Lincoln Learning Center (one of the centers associated with Kirkwood Community College). She is now doing great in reading plus she loves to read.

--Interview with Linda Bruce, Tuesday, February, 20, 1996.

John Schmidt

During our interview we found out a lot of interesting facts about Mr. Schmidt. He graduated from Kennedy High School in the Work Study Program. Mr. Schmidt got his first job, at Rockwell, through the work study program.

He still works there. Mr. Schmidt is very visual. He knows how to tell time by the sun. He says that if a teacher knows a student is having problems, "they should bring them up front, not let him sit in the back." Now Mr. Schmidt is doing good in reading although it's still not easy for him. Writing is even more difficult.

--Interview with John Schmidt on Tuesday, February 20, 1996.

Josie Williams

Josie Williams just became a literate person a few years ago. When Mrs. Williams was young, she didn't go to school very often because the children in her family had to trade off days to go to school. Because when they were not in school they helped pick cotton to earn money for the family. She quit school and married young. When her birthdays came along she'd pretend to read the birthday cards, but she couldn't. She finally learned how to read with the help of her family. Now she learns from her 8-year-old grandson and she teaches him.

Her advice to others is to learn all you can learn while you are in school. She said that if she could go back in time to change anything about her life, "I'd beg my parents to let me be the one to go to school."

--Interview with Josie Williams on Thursday, February 22, 1996.

--Interviews conducted and information gathered by Amanda, Aimee, Maggie, David, Crishun, and Matt L.

To read some interesting quotes and facts about adult literacy connect with Facts on Adult Literacy.

If you want to volunteer to become a literacy tutor please call 1-800-332-2055 (in Iowa), or contact an Adult Literacy Center near you.

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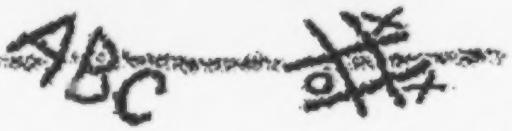
Iowa ABCs

- A uthors with an Iowa Connection
- B ooks and Historical Places in Iowa
- C hildren as Web Makers - A Profile
- I owa Links



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Authors with an Iowa Connection

Craig Brown

Tama, Iowa is Craig McFarland Brown's childhood home. He grew up in Iowa and lived here for much of his life. He writes books and illustrates them using a technique called stippling. Stippling is using dots to make the light and dark areas of a picture. Two of our favorite books are *In the Spring* and *Tractor*. Now Craig Brown lives in Colorado, but many of his book ideas come from Iowa.

Cindy Gerard

Cindy Gerard was born and raised in Iowa and still lives in northeast Iowa. She has published seven books with Bantam/Doubleday/Dell's romance line. She is now writing for other publishers. She has a new book coming out soon. She credits one of her teachers, Agnes Gough, for her passion for prose.

-- Information collected by D.J.

Mary Ann Gensicke

Mary Ann Gensicke grew up in Iowa and lives in Cedar Rapids, Iowa with her husband and children. After teaching elementary school for twenty years she became a library media specialist at Polk Elementary School, in the Cedar Rapids Community School District. Her extensive travels to research her book, *I Is for Iowa*, have given her a new appreciation of Iowa and its history.

-- Information collected by Caitlyn

Carol Gorman

Carol Gorman writes books for young adult readers. She was born and raised in Iowa City and now lives in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She wrote *Jennifer-the-Jerk Is Missing* and many other books. She writes especially great mystery books.

Ed Gorman

Ed Gorman is an author who writes adult books. He lives in Cedar Rapids, Iowa with his wife, Carol Gorman. She writes for young readers. Ed Gorman writes mostly adult mystery and suspense novels. One of his newest books, *Black River Falls*, was published in England. It is about a boy's older brother who is a murderer.

Ed Gorman gets his ideas for writing books by reading books and stories. Ed will read a line or meet a character and suddenly a story line will pop into his head. Ed likes getting up in the morning, having some coffee and going upstairs to his work office, and getting started on writing a story. For the past seven years he has been making a living by writing novels.

-- Information collected by Aaron

Lynn Hall

Lynn Hall was born on Nov. 9, 1937 and was raised in the Midwest. She was the middle of three daughters. She was an author of children's books since 1967. She was born in Lombard, Illinois and now lives in the country near Elkader, Iowa. One of the books that she wrote was *Dagmar Schultz and the Powers of Darkness* which takes place in the fictitious town of New Berlin, Iowa. Another book was *Dagmar Schultz and the Angel Edna*. That book is about a boy-crazy thirteen-year-old. Dagmar moves to a quiet Iowa community only to find herself a special project of a guardian angel with very old-fashioned morals.

-- Information collected by Caitlyn; photo by Jan Hall

Ann Irwin

Ann Irwin usually wrote books with Lee Hadley. They wrote their books using Hadley Irwin as a pseudonym. They wrote a dozen or more books together. Some of their books were: *What About Grandma?*, *Moon and Me*, *The Lilith Summer*, *Kim/Kimi*, and *The Original Freddie Ackerman*. The last book they wrote together was *Sara-With-An-H*. Ann Irwin lives in Lake View, Iowa. Ann Irwin used to teach elementary school and taught university graduate courses in English at Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. Before Ann Irwin began writing books with Lee Hadley she wrote books using her own name. She wrote one book, with Bernice Reida, about Iowa and its history. That book was titled *Hawkeye Adventure*. In 1996, Ann Irwin was working on a book about a boy who comes to Iowa on an orphan train. This boy ends up living with Jesse, the creator of the Delicious apple.

-- *Information collected by Michelle*

Jacqueline Briggs Martin

Jacqueline Briggs Martin was born in Maine where her parents had a dairy farm. In Iowa she doesn't live on a farm but lives in a small college town. She writes picture books about mice and horses and people and places. We love one of her newest books *Grandmother Bryant's Pocket*.

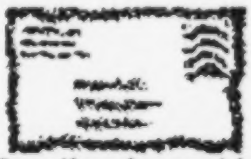
Violet Olsen

Violet Olsen was born May 8, 1922 in Spencer, Iowa. Her parents were Peter and Johanna Larsen. Her childhood home was near Spencer, Iowa. One of her books was *The Growing Season*, an autobiographical account of her life. She began writing stories for magazines and later she started writing books for children. Two of her articles were published in *Reader's Digest*. Both articles were written about children and it made her feel very happy to realize that people in many places were reading her stories about children. Mrs. Olsen died in 1995.

-- *Information collected by Ryan*

Most of this information was researched and collected by fourth and fifth grade students in Miss Preston's class. We researched to locate published authors who had an Iowa connection. We knew of some because they had visited our school (Harrison Elementary in Cedar Rapids, Iowa) and you can get more information about them by going to their page on our school site. To find other authors we had to search in reference books and write them letters to get information. The University of Iowa maintains a collection of materials about Iowa authors in the University's library. That collection, the Iowa Authors Collection in Special Collections has materials pertaining to Iowa Authors.

If you have any information about Iowa authors that you would like to share with us you can e-mail us:



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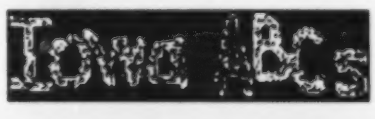


Books and Historical Places in Iowa

In person or in a book, there are plenty of interesting places to visit in Iowa.

Burr Oak, Iowa has a museum at the old Masters Hotel where the Ingalls family lived for two years. In a letter dated June 10, 1947, Laura Ingalls Wilder said, "My family did live in Burr Oak for nearly two years, but I fear my memories of that time will not be very interesting as they are more of the place than of the people." Grace, Laura's youngest sister, was born in Burr Oak and the family moved back to Walnut Grove, Minnesota in 1878.

Write for more information to:
Laura Ingalls Wilder Park and Museum
PO Box 43
Burr Oak, Iowa 52131.

Moingona, Iowa is the site where Kate Shelley, in July of 1881, saved a train load of people from a raging river. Her story is told in *Hawkeye Adventures*, chapter 21, by Bernice Reida and Ann Irwin (Lake Mills, Iowa: Graphic Publishing Company, 1966). Her story is also told in three picture books: *Kate Shelley and the Midnight Express: American Folk Legend* by Wesley Porter (Watts, 1979); *Kate Shelley and the Midnight Express* by Margaret K. Wetterer (Carolrhoda, 1990); and *Kate Shelley: Bound for Legend* by Robert San Souci (Dial, 1995). Tourists can visit the bridge and the depot in Moingona.

Schools and libraries were important to early Iowans but so were churches. The Old Zion Methodist Church in Dubuque, Iowa is a historical site because it was built in the late 1800s and it was one of Iowa's first churches. Seventy people donated from 12 cents to 25 dollars. If you want to read more about it you might want to look it up in *Hawkeye Adventures* by Bernice Reida and Ann Irwin (Graphic Pub., 1966).

-- Information reported by Nick.

The Quaker Oats Company in Cedar Rapids, Iowa began as a mill to process oats into oatmeal. It is now the largest cereal plant. It is a historical site because it is the largest oatmeal producer in the world. If you want more information about this place you can read *Iowa* by Angela Sjolund and Richard Sjolund (McRoberts Pub., 1975).

-- Information reported by Dawn.

The Larrabee School at Clermont, Iowa was built by former Governor and Mrs. William Larrabee. The school was presented to the district as a gift. If you want to learn more about this school you can find more information about it in *Iowa Beautiful Land: A History of Iowa* by Jessie Merrill Dwelle (Klipto Loose Leaf Co., 1958).

-- Information reported by Jamie.

Known as the Old Capitol this structure served as Iowa's territorial capitol and the first state capitol. The Old Capitol was designed by John Francis Rague of Springfield, Illinois. The building was completed in 1842. After awhile Iowa's capitol was moved to Des Moines. The Old Capitol building is located on the University of Iowa.

If you know of a place that people should visit in Iowa e-mail us a message and tell us about it:

sharrison@mail.cedar-rapids.k12.ia.us

Children as Web Makers -A Profile

"150 Years of Literacy in Iowa" began as a project to focus on Iowa's Sesquicentennial and the level of literacy in Iowa. The project was undertaken by fourth and fifth grade classes at Harrison Elementary School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Three classrooms were studying Iowa and its place in the history of the United States. They were able to find out a lot of information for the website. Those classes and their teachers: Helen Kane, Jamie Preston, and Eileen Crowley worked very hard for a number of weeks to interview people, write letters, and compile information to tell a story about Iowa and its attitude towards literacy and the level of literacy through the years. Three other classes and their teachers: Kim Russ, Lisa Greif, and Candi Lynch conducted research and collated opinions to create three more web pages. Jim Jacobmeyer, a gifted and talented resource specialist for the district, helped us a lot on this website by organizing a design group which helped create graphics and search for information.

In addition to searching for information in our own school's library media center, students used reference books, resources at the Cedar Rapids Public Library, vertical files, CD-ROM reference sources, the Internet, phone interviews, in-person interviews, letters, surveys, a modem access to the Library of Congress's card catalog, and other miscellaneous sources. They found that their great-great-great-great grandparents might have ridden a horse to a one-room school house to learn to read and write using McGuffy's readers and slate writing tablets. Over 100 years later they were attending a 19 classroom neighborhood school with a library media center and classrooms filled with books and reading material. And while they wrote with pencil and paper they were also able to write their summaries of research projects on the computer and post the information for the world to see.

If you have some comments about these pages or any information you think we should add please e-mail the students who created these pages.

E-mail to -- Sharron McElmeel, library media specialist

Iowa Links

Welcome to Iowa -- Information on Iowa's business, tourism, education, government, jobs, Iowa profiles, and other great Internet links.

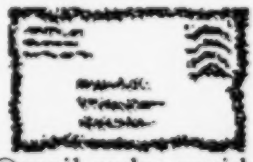
Iowa Virtual Tourist -- Visit over 40 cities in Iowa from Atlantic to Okoboji to Decorah to Keokuk to Harlan and all sites in-between.

Iowa Sesquicentennial -- Learn about special events and e-mail your comments to the Iowa Sesquicentennial Committee.

Other Cool Internet Sites in Iowa -- Dozens of links to sites focusing on travel and tourism, universities in Iowa, libraries, government, internet providers, and other miscellaneous links.

Grant Wood Area Education Agency -- The Grant Wood Area Education Agency hosts this website, "150 Years of Literacy in Iowa." If you visit their home page you will be able to link to many other education related Iowa sites.

Links selected by Sarah, Jessica and Chris.



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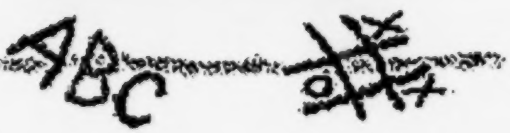
School Day

- Abbe Creek School Then; Harrison School Now
- Remembering School Days
- American College Testing



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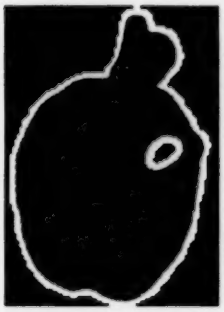
Abbe Creek School Then; Harrison School Now

The Schools

Then: Abbe Creek School is located in Linn County, Iowa on Highway 30 a few miles west of Mt. Vernon, Iowa. The brick building was built in 1856. In the late 1800s and early 1900s it was used as a church and school. It was a one room schoolhouse.

Now: Harrison School is located at 1310 11th Street NW in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The brick school that is now being used was built in 1930 and has grades preschool through fifth grade. It has eighteen classrooms in the main building.

Teachers



Then: A few were men, but most were women. Women were not allowed to continue teaching if they married. Women teachers could not date. Men teachers could date once a week if they went to church twice during that week.

Now: Some are men, but most teachers seem to be women. Women can keep teaching whether they are married or not. Both men and women can date whenever and how often they wish. They don't have to go to church if they don't want to.

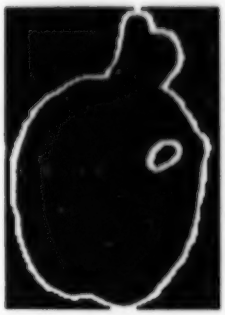
Curriculum

Then: Spelling was very important. When the children had spelling, they had to repeat the word orally in a complete sentence and then spell the word. Older students had to work with the younger students in math and other subjects. When a child read a book it was read orally. The child had to stand in front of the class and hold the book with three fingers on the outside, and two fingers holding the pages on the inside. Their feet had to be in a special position. They often read the Bible.

Now: Spelling is very important. Now children are given the words orally but must write the word on paper. Older students in our school have reading buddies and often work with younger students in other subjects. Boys and girls read independently, with

buddies, or in a group. They can read almost anywhere they want. Children don't have to hold the books any certain way. Now boys and girls are given a lot of choice in regard to the books they want to read.

Discipline



Then: When a child misbehaved the teacher would punish the child by drawing a circle on the chalkboard and making the child put his/her nose on the chalkboard in the circle. The child had to stand there as long as the teacher wanted. Another way of punishing the child was paddling. If a child got an answer wrong he or she might get slapped on the hand with a ruler. Children who gave wrong answers sometimes had to wear a dunce's cap.

Now: Children who misbehave are sent to the principal's office. Sometimes the misbehaving student has to stay after school. Nobody paddles students or calls them dunces. Children are expected to follow the rules, and if they don't other children, teachers, or the principal help them understand why the rules need to be followed.

Where Teachers Live

Then: Teachers often lived with a pupil's family for at least one month of the school year. Sometimes one family kept the teacher all year. They had to be close to the school so they could be there early in the winter to start the fire. They had to do their own custodial work.

Now: Teachers have their own house or apartment. They live anywhere they want to. They do not need to start fires to keep the school room warm. Custodians are hired to clean the rooms.

Recess

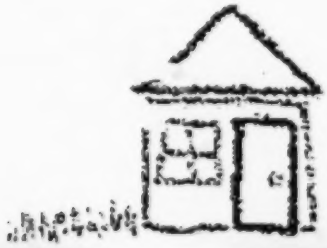
Then: The students played "call ball" -- a game where a ball is thrown and bounced up into the air and someone calls to catch it. If the person catches the ball he or she gets to go to the middle and do the bouncing. They played tag and jumped rope. They did not have any playground equipment.

Now: We play four square (a ball game played in a grid-like square), kick-ball, football, and other ball games. We play on the playground equipment, jump rope, and run races.

Information collected through interviews and a visit to Abbe Creek School. The information shared by personnel from the Linn County (Iowa) Conservation Board, was invaluable in developing the statements about schools today and long ago.

This information was reported by:
Dennis, Kim, Angela, Anna, Donnie, and Mark
Mrs. Crowley's 4/5th grade multi-age class

sharrison@mail.cedar-rapids.k12.ia.us



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Remembering School Days

Linda Kollias is a homemaker living in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She attended elementary school in Anamosa, Iowa from 1949 to 1955. The first school she went to was an old brick building. She remembers climbing a lot of stairs. Her school was very strict! The girls had to wear dresses or skirts. If they had a field trip it would have only been one a year. There were a lot of rules. They mostly read out of workbooks. They also had a paper called the *Weekly Reader*. It had special articles and current events.

The things she remembers most about school are the teachers, her friends, and the playground. Some of her teachers and friends stand out more than others. She can remember two girls especially because she was impressed by the way they could hang upside down by their heels on the jungle bars. One teacher she was very fond of was her sixth grade teacher Mrs. Cherry. She remembers buying her a box of chocolate covered cherries for Christmas with her baby-sitting money.

Her favorite books were *Cheaper by the Dozen* and *The Hidden Staircase*. She liked *Cheaper by the Dozen* because of all the humor and *The Hidden Staircase* because of all the suspense. Halfway through the sixth grade she moved to a different school. It was one story and very modern.

-- *Interview by Jim*

Helen Whittington attended school in the early 1900s. She went to a little farm school in Clinton county about three miles south of a town called Charlotte. She went to a one room schoolhouse with eight grades. There was only one teacher for all eight grades. They didn't have a nurse except for their teacher. Her grandfather deeded the land for the school. With eight grades it was hard on the teacher and the students because of all the noise. There were no buses to pick up the students, so the students had to walk or ride a pony. Helen was lucky. She had a pony she could ride to school.

She can't remember but they didn't have a large media center, but each grade had a reader book. They read books like *Little Women*. Her favorite book was *Ivanhoe*.

The things she remembers most about school are the spelling bees. The winners at one school would go to another. If a student was a finalist and won, she or he would get a cash prize. Most of the words were picked by the school master.

They had writing lessons. Helen said, of all the things that helped her later, writing was one of the most important. Good penmanship was important to her, later on, when she was being considered for different jobs. She worked for the Rock Island Railroad and was office manager for Lefebure.

-- Interview by Jim and Jovan

Anastasia Kelly attended school in a one-room school near the town of Clay Mills. Clay Mills was ten miles south of Cascade, Iowa. The town no longer exists. In the entry way was a bench and a table. The table held an earthenware water jar that held drinking water. The water had to be carried from outside where they got the water from a pump.

One of her teachers was her sister, Cecelia. Her sister started teaching around 1911. She was only 16 when she began teaching. Teachers were supposed to be 18 but Cecelia and most likely her twin sister, Marcella, traveled from Temple Hill to Dubuque to take the teacher's examination. Cecelia did not tell that she was only 16. She earned $30.00 per month to teach and the contract specified that "she, to do her own janitor work."

Cecelia often rode a mule to school. The parents of children who went to school to be taught by Cecelia would often drop off hay for the mule to eat during the day. If the weather was too severe for her to ride the mule she sometimes stayed with a family of one of her children. The school was heated with a pot belly stove and in addition to cleaning the school she had to carry in the wood to build a fire for the day.

Anastasia remembers that boys often did not go to school because they had to help with the field work and the harvesting of the crops. When they could not go to school family members helped them at home. On the day that Anastasia Kelley visited our school to be interviewed she came with her niece.

-- Interview by Mrs. Crowley's class

American College Testing

The American College Testing building is a place where they develop and publish tests for Iowa and the United States. The company, organized in 1959, developed the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills. Educators use the tests all over the United States and some foreign countries.

According to Dr. Kelly Hayden, an official at American College Testing, the organization came to be established in Iowa City, Iowa because the people that developed the organization were at the University of Iowa. The organization has a test that covers English, science, mathematics, and reading. The test is similar to the ACT tests. The ACT tests are widely recognized as a college entrance exam.

They also have six writing tests. The reading levels are for grades 3 and 4: 5 and 6; 7 and 8; 9 and 10; 11 and 12. They also have reading tests that are for kindergarten through twelfth grade.

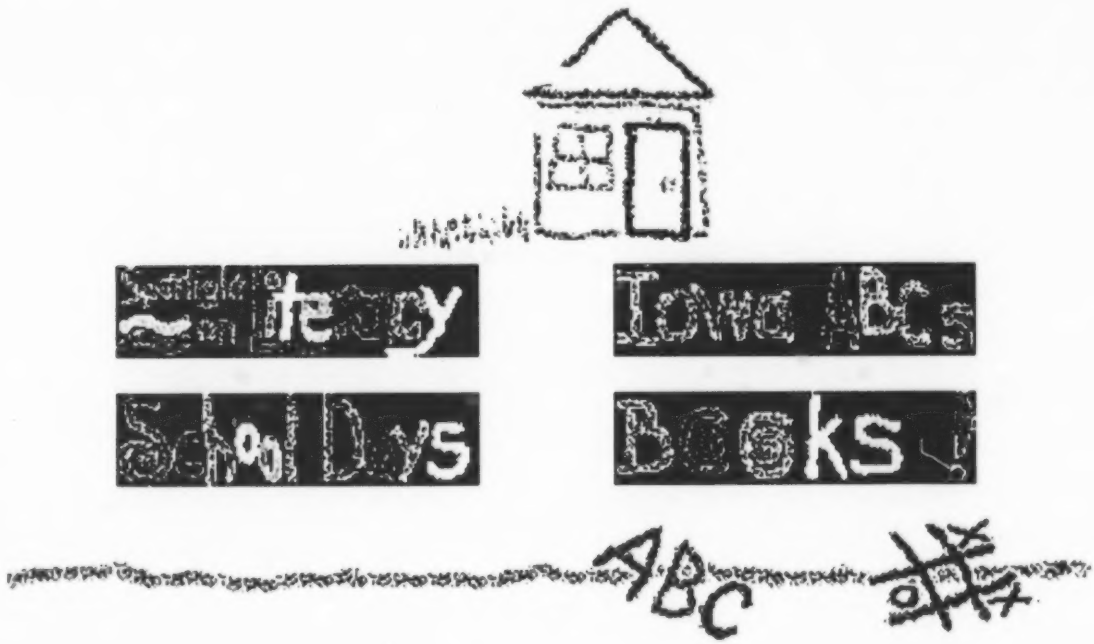
ACT also has a test for naturalization. Those who wish to become citizens can take the test to show that they qualify for citizenship. The American College Testing organization does not have tests that are for adults that are just learning to be literate, but according to Dr. Hayden, that is something that they could "look into in the future."

Interview with Dr. Hayden, February 15, 1996
-- Contributed by Rachel

For more information about American College Testing contact:

American College Testing
P.O. Box 168
Iowa City, Iowa 52243
ph. (319) 337-1000

sharrison@mail.cedar-rapids.k12.ia.us



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BOOKS!

- Mayors and Other Iowa People and Their Favorite Childhood Books
- A New Library
- Bookstores in Iowa
- Books - an Iowa Connection
- Children's Books
- Favorite Picture Books to Share with Someone

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Mayors and Other Iowa People and Their Favorite Childhood Books

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

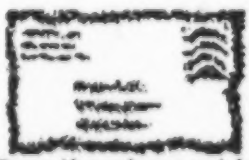
In 1996, Lee Clancey became the first woman mayor of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She is a very conservative mayor who cares about the issues rather than popularity.

Q. What was your favorite childhood book?

A. I had many favorite books from that time including the whole series of Nancy Drew mysteries by Caroline Keene, the *Little House in the Woods* series by Laura Ingalls Wilder and *Pippi Longstocking* by Astrid Lindgren. My very favorite, though, was *Charlotte's Web* by E. B. White. I loved the strong, independent female characters and the story of friendship between such diverse characters. It was a real favorite, and I read it many times.

-- *Interview by Cody*

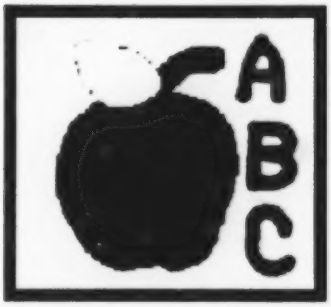
Tell us about your city or town's mayor and your mayor's favorite childhood book. If it is a mayor in Iowa we will try to add the information to this page. If you decide to interview your mayor or another county, state, or city/town official and want to send us the information for this page please e-mail us and we will send a permission form that will need to be signed. We hope you will want to share the favorite childhood books of people in your community.



sharrison@mail.cedar-rapids.k12.ia.us

A New Library

Marion, Iowa has one of the newest libraries in Iowa. It used to have a library in a building that was known as a Carnegie Library. Many libraries were built in the state of Iowa during the turn of the century. The territory of Iowa even had a Territorial Library before Iowa became a state. Many libraries were built due to the generosity of Andrew Carnegie, a native of Scotland, who had made a lot of money in the steel mills. He gave money to help build over 2,500 libraries all over the United States and Canada.



Andrew Carnegie grew up in Scotland where he wanted very much to be able to have books to read. The only person in town who had a library was a very rich man would not open his library to others. Later when Carnegie came to the United States he still longed for books to read.

He became a runner for the railroad. A rich man in Philadelphia opened his library to the young men who were runners for the railroad. Carnegie never forgot that and when he became a rich man he used his money to open libraries so that everyone, regardless of how much money they had, could use a library.

When he began to give money for libraries, the first one he gave money to build was one in his hometown in Scotland. After that he helped to build many others. He gave money to build a Carnegie Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and in Marion, Iowa. Cedar Rapids built a new library in the 1980s. In 1996, Marion is building a new library.

Marion's New Library

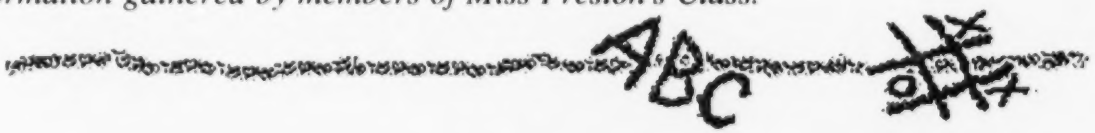
During an interview with Nancy Miller, we found out a lot about how the Carnegie Libraries were built, and she told us a lot about how the new library was being designed and built. We even got to see the architect's drawing of the new building. She brought the drawing to our school and told us about the new building and all the plans for helping people have access to books and a place to read and enjoy them.

The people of Marion raised money to start building a new library. Many people have given money to help build the library. Nancy A. Miller gave hundreds of thousands of dollars to build the library and it will be named in her honor. The Hall Foundation, Cox Cable Company, Firstar Bank, and Rockwell have all given corporate contributions to the building fund but many individuals have given money too.

Fifty-three per cent of the cost of the new library is being funded by private or corporate donations. Tax dollars are paying for the rest of the cost. The new library will be 24,000 square feet and all on one floor. They will have a new automated catalog showing what materials they have. People who check on the computers at the Cedar Rapids Public Library will be able to see what books Marion has. Those people who check on Marion's computers will be able to see what Cedar Rapid's has, as well.

A lot of planning went into the design and the building of the new library. The architects held a lot of town meetings so that citizens could say what they wanted their library to be like. Citizens even got to sit in chairs and decide which ones they wanted the building committee to purchase for the new library. The library opened during the summer of 1996.

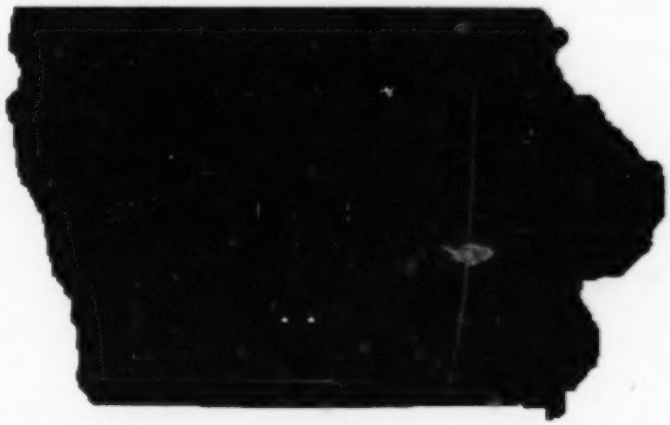
-- *Information gathered by members of Miss Preston's Class.*



sharrison@mail.cedar-rapids.k12.ia.us

Bookstores in Iowa

1883



One of the oldest bookstores in Iowa is the O.G. Waffle Book Company which was existing in Marion, Iowa in 1883. That was just thirty-three years after Iowa became a state. The first owner of the bookstore was O.G. Waffle. O.G. stood for Owen Gates. O.G. Waffle ran the business from 1883 to 1931. He sold reference books to public libraries. He also sold some books to schools. Some of his salespeople went door-to-door selling books. He published one book titled, *Gems for the Fireside*. That was the only book he published. The title page says it was published, in 1883, by Mitchell and Waffle.

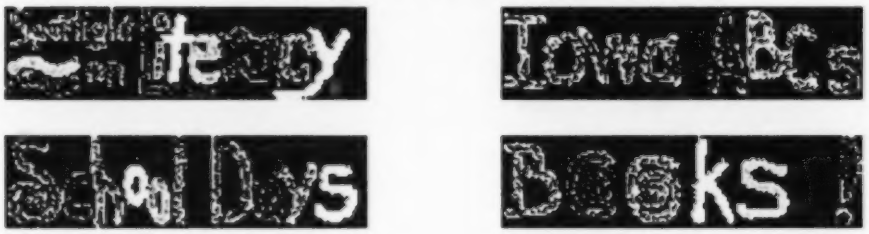
In 1931, O.G.'s son Norman took over the business. Norman and Lenore Waffle operated the company from 1931 until they retired in the early 1980s. The business grew while Norman ran the company. Norman sold reference books to public libraries, and all kinds of books to schools. They had two children, Elbert and Elizabeth. When they grew up, they had other careers and did not want to run a book store, so Nancy Jennings bought it and became the owner on September 3, 1985. Norman told her that she should not sell paperbacks but times changed and now Mrs. Jennings sells more books to schools than she does public libraries. Public libraries often buy from one or two companies that buy everything from one place and the big companies can give a larger discount. Children's librarians still like to see the pictures and see how big the print is before they buy the book. She does bookfairs for schools and takes books to many reading conferences in the state. She sells children's books and adult books.

Today

We tried to find out how many bookstores there are in Iowa today, but the latest record we could find was 132 bookstores in 1992. In Cedar Rapids alone, there are 22 bookstores. If you know how many bookstores there are in your town or if you know of a bookstore older than O.G. Waffle Book Company please write to us and tell us about it.

Compiled by Caitlyn and Erin

sharrison@mail.cedar-rapids.k12.ia.us



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Books - An Iowa Connection

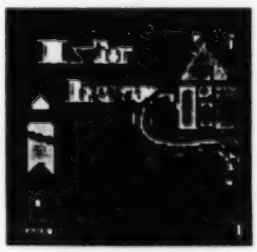
Books are set in places all over the world. We have found several books that have been set in Iowa but we would like to know even more.

Emberley, Barbara. ***The Story of Paul Bunyan.*** **Illustrated by Ed Emberley. Prentice-Hall, 1963; Simon & Schuster, 1994 pb. ISBN: 067-188-6479 (pb).**

Paul Bunyan was clearing the state of Iowa so Iowa's farmers could plant the crops. The farmers planted corn. Paul was a lumberjack and he needed a quick way to take the logs to New Orleans, so Paul dug a river. The river is still known as the Mississippi River.

--by Brittany

Gensicke, Mary Ann. ***I Is for Iowa.*** **Illustrated by Lonna Nachtigal. Iowa State University Press, 1995. ISBN: 0-8138-2404-4.**



When I read this book I found out about "Snake Alley." I would like to ride my bike down there. Snake Alley is located in Burlington. It is the curviest street in the world. I also found out that Eskimo Pies were invented in Iowa in 1921. It has a ton of facts about Iowa. Once you start reading this book you can't stop. If you are studying Iowa, this is a great book for researching Iowa.

-- by Joe

Heath, May. ***Iowa Hannah.*** **Illustrated Charles Walker. Hastings House, 1961. No ISBN number available.**

Hannah and her family finds a place to live in the wilderness. When the children go to school they go to a one-room school house, When they get home the mother invites the neighbors over to their house and they weave and sew a rug. The family lived in the

wilderness for almost a year.

-- *by Jena*

Lowry, Lois. ***Switcharound.*** **Houghton Mifflin, 1985. ISBN: 0-395-39536-4.**

This book is about J.P. and Caroline. They didn't want to go to their dad's house in Des Moines, Iowa. When they got there, their dad and their stepmother had twins. J.P. and Caroline did not like that too much but it turned out that they liked it. Some of the book is funny. The rest is kind of serious. It's a really good book to read.

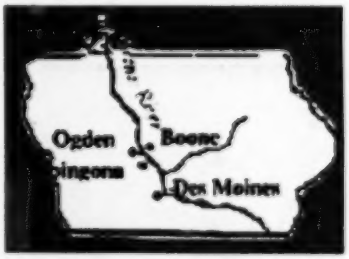
-- *by Eric*

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. ***Beetles, Lightly Toasted.*** **Atheneum, 1987. ISBN: 0-689-31355-1.**

This book is set near West Union, Iowa. Andy and his rival, Jack, heard about a contest on the WMT radio (Cedar Rapids, Iowa). The essay contest is being sponsored by Iowa State University (Ames, Iowa). Andy and Jack both enter the contest and both are sure they will win. Andy's essay is going well, but he realizes that if he does win the contest, he's in big trouble.

-- *by Kristin*

San Souci, Robert. ***Kate Shelley: Bound for Legend.*** **Illustrated by Max Ginsburg. Dial, 1995. ISBN: 0-8037-1289-8**



Kate Shelley was a real hero and saved the lives of people who were on a train during a raging storm. Always modest when asked about her heroic deed, Kate would say, "I believe that God makes strong the weakest and makes the poorest of us able to do much for her merciful purposes." Kate Shelley lived near the Honey Creek Bridge which carried railroad trains over Honey Creek, a small creek off the Des Moines River between Moingona, Iowa and Boone, Iowa.

--Books annotated by Mrs. Crowley's Class

If you know of other books that are set in Iowa and want to tell us about them, send us the information and we'll try to add it to our page.

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Children's Books

A Steig, William. ***A****bel's Island.* McGraw-Hill, 1976.
It's about a mouse named Abel and his wife, Amanda. They go out for a picnic and there is a storm. Abel is taken away to an island. On his travels to get back home, he finds new friends and gains a new understanding of his world.

B **B**rittain, **B**ill. *The Ghost **B**eneath the Sea.* HarperCollins, 1992.
The story is about a house that was saved by boys named Tommy, Books, and Harry. But an amusement park will threaten the park again. And the boys along with a ghost will try to stop it.

C Hurwitz, Johanna. ***C****lass **C****lown.* Morrow Junior Books, 1987.
It is about a boy and he gets in trouble with his friend named Cricket. And his teacher name is Mrs. Hochaday. And he starts to be a class clown. So read it.

D Clifford, Eth. *The **D**astardly Murder of **D**irty Pete.* Pocket Books, 1981.
In this book the dad and his two daughters are on their way to their grandma and grandpa's house. When the dad sees a sign that says Inn of the Whispering Ghost. Since the dad is a newspaper writer he gets really to be in a ghost town. When they get there they find an old newspaper that has an article about sorehead Jones. They spend the night at the Inn of the Whispering Ghost. Over the next day and night some pretty exciting things happen. So read and find out by yourself.

E Ragz, M.M.. ***E****yeballs for Breakfast.* Pocket Books, 1990.
This book is about Peter a boy. He met this one girl and she said her name was Miss Marvelous. But her real name was Ashly Douglas. Peter was going to a new classroom and his friend wants him to make a good impression instead of getting in trouble. Murphy, Peters friend was so mad he stuck some paste in Ashley's hair.

F Naylor, Phyllis. *The **F**ear Place.* Simon and Schuster, 1994.
It is about a boy named Doug and his brother Gordon. Gordon is the youngest one. In this story Doug,Gordon, and their mom and dad go camping. While they are camping their uncle dies. Doug's mom and dad go to the funeral, and leave the two boys alone. While their parents are gone, the boys go mountain climbing. While they were up the mountain, Gordon gets hurt. They try ejecting down but they run from a mountain lion. What will they do!

G Gorman, Carol. *Graveyard Moon*. Avon Flare, 1993.
I would recommend this book because I think it is very well written. Here is one of the parts in the book, "In the blackness her eyes catch a shape in the shadows." If you want a really good mystery book than get *Graveyard Moon*. One of the main characters is Lisa. I really like this book a lot. If I was going to pick a chapter book I would pick *Graveyard Moon*. It also is very interesting, I had a lot of fun reading it.

H Smith, Alison. *Help! There's a Cat Washing in Here*. E.P Dutton.
This book is about when Henry's mom needs money so she starts a job where she has to take care of her brothers and sisters. Every morning he has to pack their lunch.

I Honeycutt, Natilie. *Invisible Lissa*. Bradbury Press, 1985.
Lissa thinks that she is invisible because everyone ignores her. At the end there is a great conclusion: she just starts being everyone's friend.

J Fitzgerald, John. *The Great Brain Does it Again*. The Dial Press, 1975.
The Great Brain Does it Again is a very good book because it is humorous, exciting, and true. J. D. is the main character as well as story teller. The Great Brain swindles another couple of victims by helping them solve problems. He helps a fat kid lose weight and helps operate a carnival ride.

K Shura, Mary. *Kate's House*. Apple, 1990.
It's about a girl named Kate and her family in Oregon, but she will not accept sleeping in the woods, because she hears sounds in the woods. Finally she gets to be with her family.

L Lobel, Arnold. *Fables*. Scholastic, 1980.
First the baboon took a walk through the jungle. Then he passed by his friend. After that the friend asked, "Why are you carrying an umbrella?"
"It will not shut, and plus I just can't leave it here, it is black."

M George, Jean. *My Side of the Mountain*. Puffin Books, 1991.
In this book, a boy named Sam runs away to the woods. He has a bird named Frightful. It is a falcon. Sam knows the way back because he knows the woods. Sam stays in the woods for a year and a half. At the end his parents find him. Sam keeps rightful.

N Wortis, Avi. *No More Magic*. Pantheon Books, 1975.
I am reading about *No More Magic*. It is about this kid. He meets a boy named Eddie. And they bike ride. While they were riding they met a friend named Muffin who had moved to town. But she moved back to Minnesota. But they wrote letters back and forth.

O Bunting, Eve. *Our Sixth Grade Sugar Babies*. Trumpet Club, 1990.
The book is about two girls. One of their names are Ellie. There's a mystery boy.

P King-Smith, Dick. ***P**igs Might Fly*. The Viking Press, 1982.
Little does Mrs. Barleylove know that her piglet, Doggy Dogfoot, can swim and fly.

Q Cohen, Barbara. ***Q**ueen for a day*. Lothrop, 1981.
This book is really good. There is this girl and she always wants to be a queen. And she always wakes up at 6:00 a.m. because if she doesn't her grandmother will slap her. She has already slapped her once or twice. She also has to go to the market, and gets rolls before a quarter to 7:00. At the end she gets to be queen for a day.

R Fitzgerald, John. *The **R**eturn of the Great Brain*. The Dial Press, 1974.
I recommend this book because it is a great sequel to *The Great Brain* book. My favorite part of the book was when Tom was on trial and lost. His sentence was a year without playing with friends.

S Collier, James. *My Brother **S**am is Dead*. Scholastic, 1974.
This book is about Sam, the older brother. And his dad who fought a lot. And Sam wants to go fight in a war. He does not want him to go because he doesn't want him to die. So Sam runs away to the war and steals his dad's rifle. A couple of months later Sam gets shot and dies.<

T Wallace, Barbara. ***T**he **T**win in the **T**avern*. Aladdin, 1993.
This book is about sinister thieves that steal a boy's family possession. The thieves make the boy, Tabby, a prisoner and make him work cruel hours.

U Salisbury, Graham. ***U**nder the Blood-Red Sun*. Yearling Books,1994.
This book is about Tomikazu, a boy. His grandfather was in World War II. And his mom says he was still alive. But Tomikazu doesn't know that his dad died in the war. Tomikazu has to be the man of the house. To help his mom and sister to survive.

V Burton, Robert. ***V**enonomous Animals*. Crescent Books, 1978.
I suggest this book because it is a neat book to read. It is about venomous animals. It talked about a lot of different animals.

W Carrick, Carol. ***W**hat a **W**imp!* Clarion Books, 1983.
It's about a boy named Barney, and he moves to the country. And he gets a new sled. And there's two boys who want to use it and Barney lets them use it. And they took it too long. So he says "I want my sled back."

X Myers, Walter. *Malcolm **X***. Scholastic, 1993.
This is a biography of one of the most controversial African-Americans in United States history.

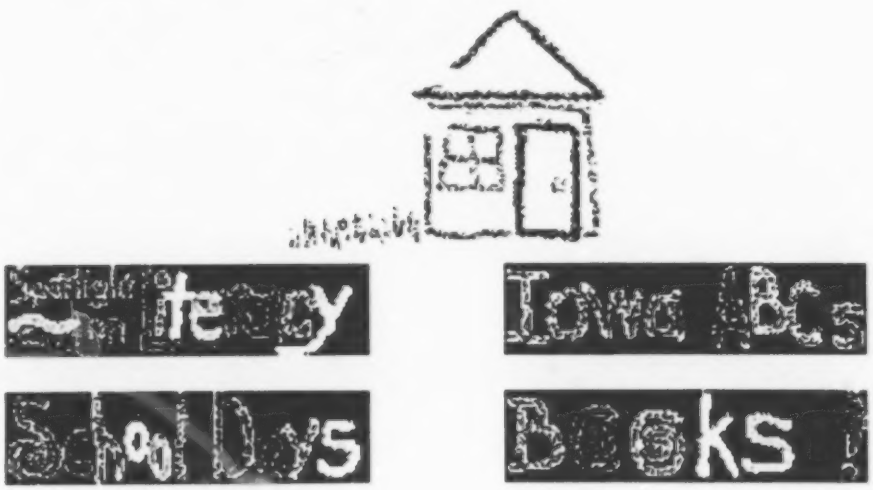
Y Lowry, Lois. ***Y****our move J.P.* Houghton, 1990.
A twelve-year-old is in love. His name is J.P.. He will go to many lengths to impress this girl. Her name is Angela Galsworthy. He will go so far as to catch a rare and deadly disease called triple Framosis.

Z O'Dell, Scott. ***Z****ia.* Houghton, 1976.
Zia is a great sequel to *Island of the Blue Dolphins*. Zia is about a girl named Zia. She and her brother Mando find a boat and go off to save her aunt (Karana) on *The Island of the Blue Dolphin*.

--These books selected and annotated by members of Miss Russ's fourth/fifth grade multi-aged class at Harrison Elementary School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

If you would like to compose your own list of recommended books to read, e-mail us with your suggestions.

sharrison@mail.cedar-rapids.k12.ia.us



Favorite Picture Books to Share with Someone

H Henkes, Kevin. ***Julius The Baby of the World.*** **Greenwillow Books,1990.**

This is a good read aloud book that is about a mouse who is jealous of her baby brother. It is humorous and interesting.

-- Recommended by Chrystal

A Asch, Frank. ***Gia and the One Hundred Dollars Worth of Bubblegum.*** **McGraw-Hill Company, 1974.**

This book is about a girl who found a puppy with a hurt paw. She repaired his paw and the dog gave him a hundred dollars. This book was exciting.

-- Recommended by David

R Anderson, Paul. ***Red Fox and the Hungry Tiger.*** **Young Scott Books, 1962.**

This is a great book because tigers and foxes don't like each other. The tiger and the fox sort of liked to talk to each other because the tiger didn't have any other friends to talk to.

-- Recommended by Justin

R ***Richie F. Dweebly Thunders On!*** **Dorling Kindersley, 1994.**

This book is a great read aloud about a teacher that loves to teach children.

-- Recommended by Sue

I Ivimey, John W. ***Three Blind Mice.*** **Clarion Books, 1987.**

This is a great book about three mice. If you like mice, you'll like this book.

-- Recommended by James

S Seuss, Dr. ***The Sneetches and Other Stories.*** **Random House, Inc., 1961.**

This is a great book to read before going to bed. I recommend it for the second and lower grades.

-- Recommended by Matt

O Henkes, Kevin. ***Owen.*** **Greenwillow Books, 1993.**

This is a good book for silent reading time. A favorite part is when Owen would not give up his blanket. It was also exciting when his dad cut up Owen's blanket.

-- Recommended by Clare and Chris

N Numeroff, Laura Joffe. ***If You Give A Moose A Muffin.*** **Harper Collins, 1991.**

This is a great read aloud about a boy that keeps giving muffins to a moose. I recommend this book because of the illustrations and it is funny.

-- Recommended by Patrick and Curt

S Seuss, Dr. ***Dr. Seuss's ABC Beginning Books.*** **Random House, 1963.**

This is a great read aloud about the ABC's because it is a book that little kids can learn from. It is a funny book and it helps kids learn the ABC's. The kids may be able to read the book better because the letters are big and easy.

-- Recommended by Codi and Abby

C Berson, Harold. ***Charles and Claudine.*** **Macmillan Publishing Co.,Inc., 1980.**

This is a good book because it is great for children. It is a very good mystery.

-- Recommended by Tara and Owen

H Rylant, Cynthia. ***Henry and Mudge.*** **Bradbury Press, 1987.**

This is a great read aloud for any second grader or younger. It is about a little boy and a big dog who share their adventures.

-- Recommended by Nathan, Amanda, and Travis

O Otto, Carolyn. ***That Sky, That Rain.*** **Illustrated by Megan Lloyd. Crowell, 1990.**

A story about a little girl and her grandfather who watch for the rain after they put the animals in the barn.

-- Recommended by Jennifer, Nathan, and Jenny

O Hissey, Jane. *Old Bear.* Philomel Books, 1986.

This is a great read aloud book about friendship. It is funny and has some surprises in it. There is a lot of flying fun in this book.

-- Recommended by Michael and Trisha

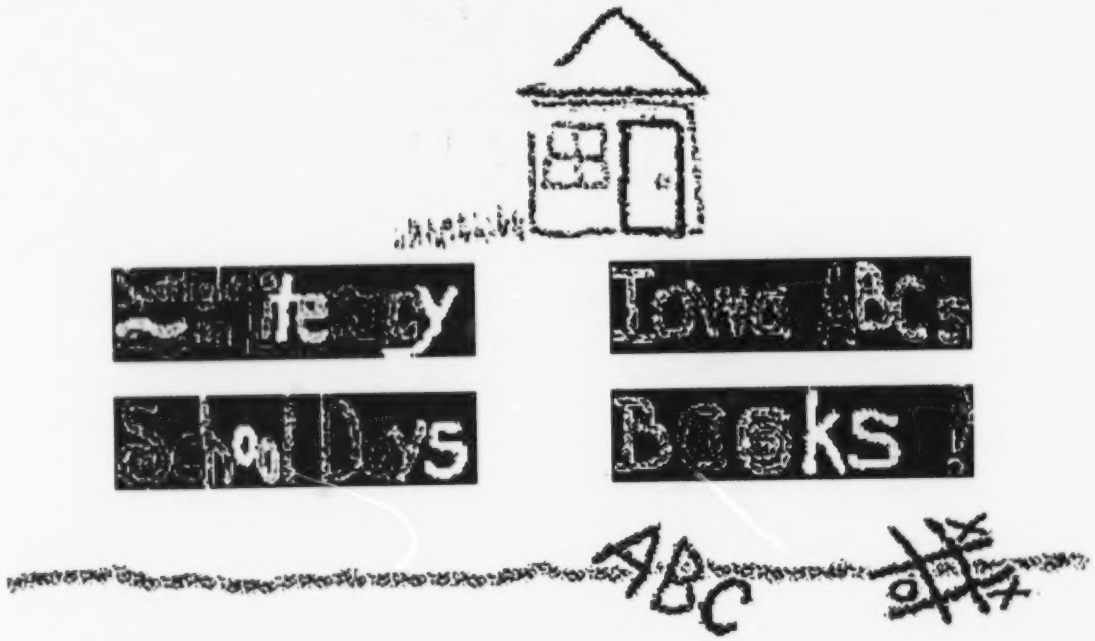
L Lionni, Leo. *Swimmy.* Pantheon, 1968.

This is a good book because it shows perseverance and cooperation. It is exciting to find out about the wonderful things he encounters. A great sentence in the book is, "He taught them to swim close together each in his own place."

-- Recommended by Davey

All picture books on this page have been selected, read, and recommended by students in Mrs. Lynch's class. If you have a picture book that you would like to recommend that others read, send us an e-mail message and let us know about the book.

sharrison@mail.cedar-rapids.k12.ia.us



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